



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 January 1986

Dear Sir,

EXPO 86: VANCOUVER

The Prime Minister has looked once more at the possibility of visiting Vancouver for Expo 86 next July. As you will be well aware, July is far from an ideal month for the Prime Minister to travel abroad. But she was impressed by Sir Derek Day's letter of 29 November to the Foreign Secretary setting out the importance of Expo 86 and British participation in it and would be prepared to consider attendance if a number of points can be settled satisfactorily:

(i) British Day would have to be at a weekend. In the light of Derek Day's letter, it appears possible for British Day to be on Saturday, 12 July.

(ii) We should work out journey timings which would enable the Prime Minister to leave London not earlier than 1800 hours on Friday, 11 July, spend two days in Vancouver and be back in London by lunchtime or fairly shortly after on Monday, 14 July. My understanding is that this is technically feasible if we could secure the use of Concorde.

(iii) It would therefore be helpful if you could discuss informally, in strict confidence and at a very senior level with British Airways whether they would be prepared to make Concorde available for this journey. The basis which we might propose is that the Prime Minister's party might pay the equivalent of first class fares, leaving British Airways themselves to meet the "Concorde supplement" as a promotional expenditure. The cost to them might be reduced by letting senior businessmen attending Expo 86 travel on the flight.

(iv) The Prime Minister would want to be satisfied that a really worthwhile programme could be worked out for the Saturday and Sunday in addition to the opening ceremony of British Day. You might ask Derek Day to sketch out the sort of programme he would have in mind (including a meeting with Mr. Mulroney).

(v) It would be helpful to have also the Trade and Industry Secretary's considered judgement that the commercial importance of Expo 86 and of British Day is really likely to be such as to warrant the Prime Minister's attendance.

(vi) Finally, given that July is an exceptionally heavy month in London with a large number of speaking engagements, it would be necessary for me to be able to assure the Prime Minister that she would not be required to make any major speeches other than speaking at the opening ceremony.

It would be helpful if you could let me have answers to these points as soon as possible so that I can confirm the Prime Minister's willingness to attend.

I am copying this letter to John Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry) and to Sir Antony Acland.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

(C. D. POWELL)

Len Appleyard, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

EXPO 86: VANCOUVER

You commented on my earlier note that you did not think it worth going all that way for one day.

We could of course extend it by the following.

Friday 11 July dep. London 1800
arr. Vancouver 2100

Saturday 12 July - in Vancouver
Sunday 13 July

Sunday 13 July dep. Vancouver 2200

Monday 14 July arr. London 1500

At the moment you have no engagements in London that Monday except a reception at 1830 for MPs and their wives.

You may, before finally making up your mind, like to look at the attached account by Derek Day about the British effort at EXPO '86.

Agree to attend EXPO on 12/13 July?

Yes not

or

Agree to ask a Ministerial colleague, perhaps the Lord President, to represent you?

C.D.P

CHARLES POWELL
31 December 1985

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